5   **ABSTRACT**

        A method and apparatus for facilitating placement and evaluation of virtual appliances on

virtual teeth of an orthodontic patient are described. Positioning references comprising bracket

height, occlusal plane, or any arbitrary plane are provided to facilitate desired placement of

virtual appliances on virtual teeth model. The process can be applied with any dentition state of a

10   patient such as malocclusion, target state from treatment, or intermediate monitored state during

the course of a treatment. An unified workstation for treatment planning provides the computer

software tools for verification, simulation and evaluation of the virtual appliance placement. The

process enables proper planning of treatment for an orthodontic patient suffering from

malocclusion involving bonding of virtual brackets to the surface of the patient's virtual teeth

15   with archwires placed in the slots of the brackets, so as to realize the desired results from the

treatment in the most desired manner.

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